

3rd Sig. Bde. celebrates Easter at Hood Stadium

By Capt. Michael Greenberger

3rd Sig. Bde. PAO

As the early Saturday sun began to warm the air, 3rd Signal Brigade volunteers scattered the grass field at Hood Stadium with plastic rainbow-colored eggs, in anticipation of the soon-to-arrive children of the brigade.

A month in the planning, the celebration at the stadium was an opportunity for the children of Soldiers in the 3rd Sig. Bde. to get out of the house and have some fun. Coordinated largely by the Headquarters and Headquarters Company Family Readiness Group, volunteers donated about 4,800 eggs and treats to fill them. In addition to the ordinary eggs, there were special golden eggs which contained slips of paper that could be exchanged for special prizes like gift bags full of toys and other exciting treasures.

Volunteers started early, setting up the field with eggs for the kids. The field was sectioned off into three different areas to accommodate different age groups.

The event was scheduled to start at 10 a.m., and families arrived one by one. The stadium stands soon filled with parents and eager children, scoping out the field trying to locate the coveted golden eggs.

At 10:30, Col. Robert L. Bethea Jr., commander of the 3rd Sig. Bde., addressed the assembled crowd. He recognized the volunteers for all their hard work and effort in putting on the event.

Eager kids stood at the edge of the field, poised ready to invade the grassy area, ready to capture as many of the miniature colored treasures as possible. Parents stood by, pointing out eggs to their kids and quietly coaching them to maximize their haul.

On the word "go," a tidal wave of waist-high bodies flooded onto the field. Gleeeful screams and shouts echoed across the stadium as tiny, frantic hands quickly recovered the plastic delights. An exercise in hand-eye coordi-

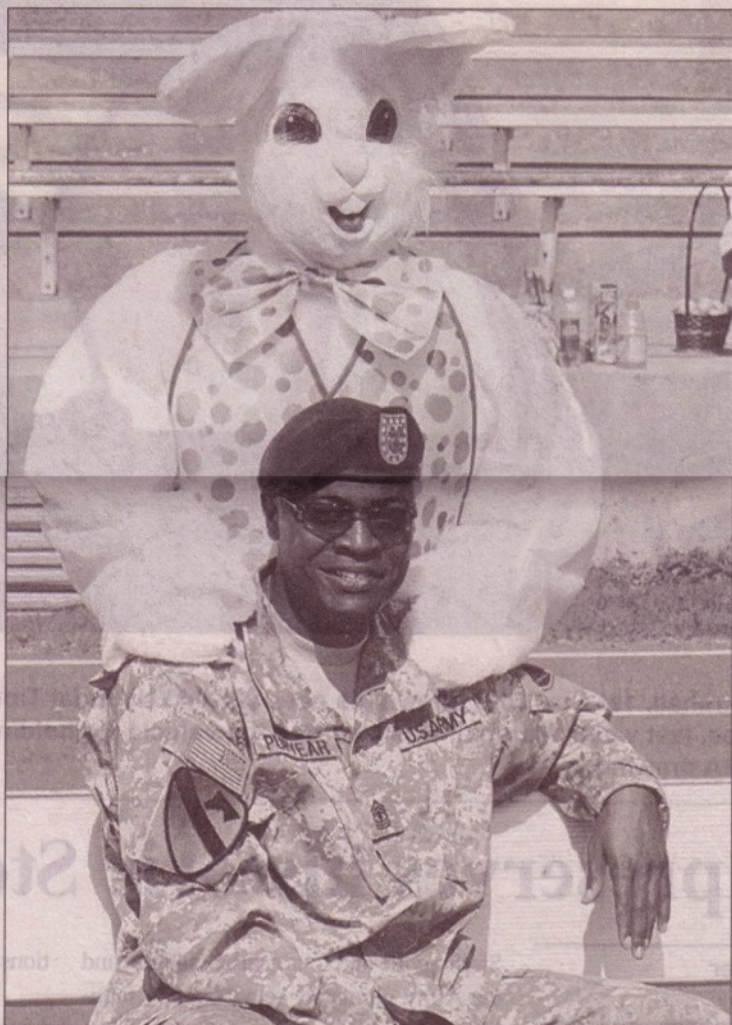


Photo by Capt Michael Greenberger, 3rd Sig. Bde. PAO

1st Sgt. Charles Puryear, 313th Sig. Co. with the Easter Bunny at the 3rd Sig. Bde. Easter Egg Hunt.

nation, excited faces scanned the surface for the coveted golden eggs while scooping up as many as they could.

In the 0-4 age group, parents led their tiny children across the turf, showing them how to pick up the eggs. Some of them, not realizing why they should pick up the multi-colored things, seemed more interested in just running around.

In the 8 and up age group, the competition was fierce as bigger kids ran across the field taking no prisoners, determined to fill their baskets with as many eggs as possible.

In the background, the Easter Bunny, also known as Michael Van Dyke, stood silently waiting for the hunt to be over and the children to turn their attention toward him.

Within minutes, all the eggs

were gone from the field. Lines of smiling, giddy children formed at tables as volunteers stood ready to pass out the special prizes to lucky ones who recovered the golden eggs. Separate lines formed so that kids could pose for pictures with the Easter Bunny.

As quickly as the hunt began it was over. Disney music played through loudspeakers while parents sat in the grass with their children examining their piles of eggs.

"I had a great time," said one child with a toothy grin.

"I think it went well, considering how many people were out of town," said Britta Van Dyke, HHC, 3rd Sig. Bde. FRG leader. "Our intention was to have the event short and sweet so people could have their weekends to themselves, but still participate in a unit function."

Huntin' eggs

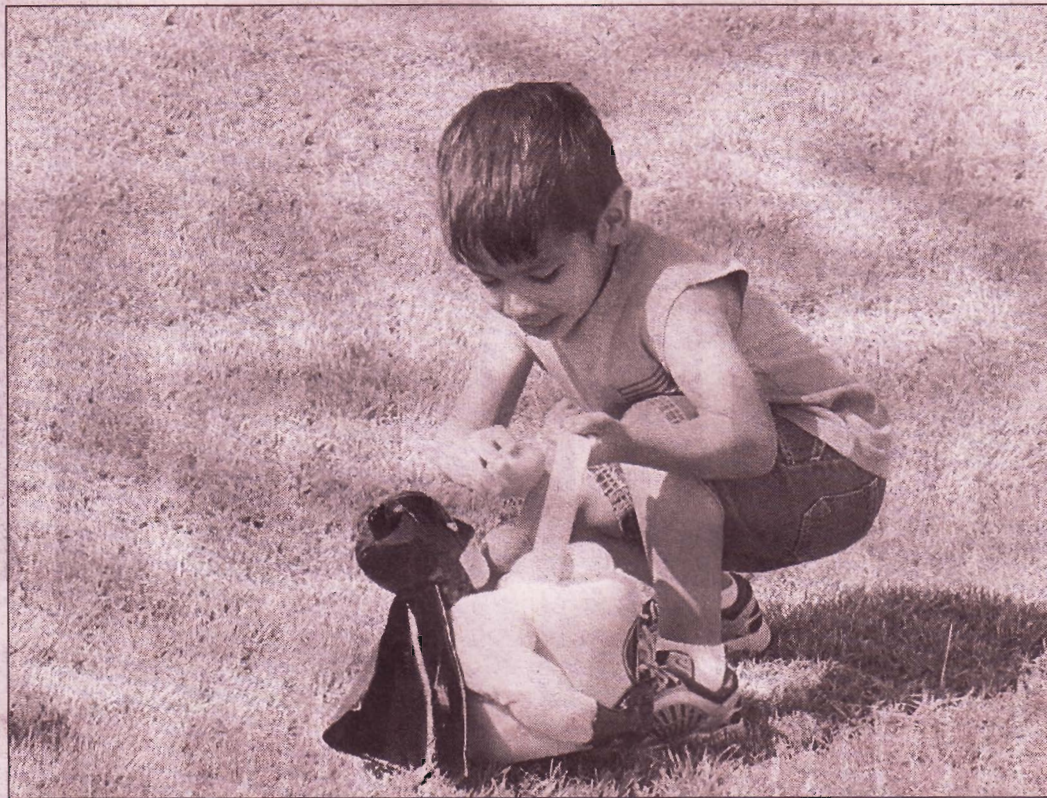


Photo by Capt. Michael Greenberger, 3rd Sig. Bde. PAO

A child of a 3rd Sig. Bde. Soldier collects eggs at an Easter Egg Hunt at Hood Stadium. Many 3rd Sig. Bde. families enjoyed family-centered Easter activities at the event. Related story B7.